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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/000,349	12/04/2001	Shigekazu Nagai	CS-49-011204	9728

22712 7590 07/16/2003

PAUL A. GUSS

PAUL A. GUSS ATTORNEY AT LAW
775 S 23RD ST FIRST FLOOR SUITE 2
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

STEFANON, JUSTIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3682

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/000,349	NAGAI ET AL.
	Examiner Justin Stefanon	Art Unit 3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 May 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7. 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on May 5, 2003. These drawings are accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EPO Pat. No 0 987 468 to Nagai et al.

Nagai et al. disclose an actuator comprising: a frame 12, a driving source 16, a feed screw shaft 20 and nut 30 assembled in a single unit, a slider 34,36 having an opening which extends in an axial direction and defines a U-shaped inner surface, a guide mechanism including plates and covers 66 which are connected to and move together with the slider, and ball return guides 8 which are installed to side surfaces of the slider and accommodated within the covers. The feed screw nut has a penetrating screw hole, the single unit includes a bearing holding member and a bearing mechanism visible in Figure 2, a housing 22 for supporting said rotary driving source,

and an end plate 38. Those of the plates, covers, and return guides which are disposed on one side in an axial direction of said slider, are composed of the same constitutive components as those disposed on another side. The slider has a rectangular hole which penetrates from said opening to said frame. A sensor, disclosed in columns 4-5 lines 64-2, is attached to one side surface on an outer side of said frame with an attachment member, i.e. via the guide mechanism, and detects an object, i.e. the motor housing 34, which is displaceable in unison with said slider.

4. Claims 1-6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat. No 6,240,796 to Yamada.

Yamada discloses an actuator comprising: a frame 2, a driving source 60, a feed screw shaft 4 and nut 17 assembled in a single unit, a slider 3, a guide mechanism including plates and covers 42,43,44 which are connected to and move together with the slider, and ball return guides 9 which are installed to side surfaces of the slider and accommodated within the covers. The feed screw nut has a penetrating screw hole, the single unit includes a bearing holding member 55 and a bearing mechanism 50, a housing 11 for supporting said rotary driving source, and an end plate 12. The feed screw nut has a cylindrical section and a pair of flange sections 19 fixed to a side surface of the slider. Those of the plates, covers, and return guides which are disposed on one side in an axial direction of said slider, are composed of the same constitutive components as those disposed on another side, as seen in Figure 3. A sensor 76 is attached to one side surface on an outer side of said frame with an attachment member,

i.e. via the guide mechanism, and detects an object 83 which is displaceable in unison with said slider.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin Stefanon whose telephone number is 703-305-1945. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Bucci can be reached on 703-308-3668. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

js
July 14, 2003


DAVID A. BUCCI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600